



Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

Dawn Taylor, President

William G. Barron, Vice President

Marcia Gordon McLaurin, Secretary & Newsletter Editor

N. Gay Blalock, Treasurer

Neil Randall, Council-at-Large

May 2021 Vol. 17, No. 4

WITHOUT A PAST, THERE IS NO FUTURE

MEETINGS WILL BE VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM MEETING—WE WILL RESUME IN PERSON MEETINGS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING ON JUNE 12, 2021 AT EL DORADO RESTAURANT IN LIBERTY... OFFICER ELECTIONS! PLEASE NOMINATE BEFORE THE MAY MEETING ON SATURDAY!

VIRTUAL BUSINESS MEETING:

Date: May 8, 2021

Place: Virtual meeting for members via Zoom.

Time: 11am – 12pm Central Time (you can join meeting as early as 10:45)

Zoom Meeting info:

[https://zoom.us/j/95543743952?
pwd=SZERCtWNDZFK205NjNwSmFPS0xTZz09](https://zoom.us/j/95543743952?pwd=SZERCtWNDZFK205NjNwSmFPS0xTZz09)

Meeting ID: 955 4374 3952

Passcode: 001882

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,95543743952# US (Houston)

+12532158782,,95543743952# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 955 4374 3952

Find your local number: [https://zoom.us/u/
acdMBxRoD1](https://zoom.us/u/acdMBxRoD1)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Captain Morgan Dedication Postponed:

The dedication unfortunately had to be postponed due to the potential for bad weather and the fact that our speaker had a death in the family. We will reschedule as soon as we can get the SCV schedule to coordinate with ours. We are looking at a date later in June. We apologize to those who showed.

June Annual Meeting:

We will be having our annual meeting at El Dorado Mexican Restaurant in Liberty, MS on June 12, 2021 at 11:00 AM. We will be voting on new officers and afterwards having lunch. Please plan on being there! We look forward to seeing everyone!

Annual Dues:

Time for dues once again! Once a year! If you are a new member who joined after the first of the year we will not ask you to pay again until 2022.

Little Red Schoolhouse:

Work continues on the LRS and it will be closed to the public until the work is completed. They are currently working on the inside plaster. Future work will entail another new column on the front porch and work on restoring the brick on the exterior.

Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes April 10, 2021

There were 6 in attendance via Zoom meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:15 by Dawn Taylor, President.

Invocation: Marcia McLaurin

Minutes: Read by Marcia McLaurin. Motion to accept Neil Randall. 2nd Debra McGehee. Minutes were accepted as read.

President's Report: 10 Ink pens were made from the column from the LRS. James White charged us \$25 per pen and he was paid on April 9, 2021 for the 10 he has made. The first 3 pens were marked with 1 stripe, 2 stripes, and 3 stripes. Proposed prices \$300 for 1st pen, \$250 for 2nd pen, and \$200 for 3rd pen and \$100 for the 4th pens and beyond. Shipping with \$50 insurance priority mail \$8.45 and we will ask for shipping costs to be paid by buyer. We need to think about nominees for officers for the May meeting. Officers need to be nominated by then so we can mail ballots with the May newsletter.

VP Report: none

Treasurer's Report: Report read by Marcia McLaurin. Balance on hand as of April 10, 2021 is \$33,262.90.

Motion to accept the executive reports was made by Neil Randall, 2nd Debra McGehee. Motion carried. The reports were accepted as read.

Old Business: The Captain Hiram Morgan Marker Dedication will be held on April 24th at 2 PM weather permitting. Cemetery cleanup was a success at the Morgan Gordon and Gordon Cemeteries. We had 9 helping with both SCV and ACHGS members present. Several more graves were found via dousing but as no one remembered to bring a probe, we were unable to find more headstones that may still be buried.

New Business: None

Announcements: Neil Randall, his family, and Sylvia Johnson cleaned the Duff Cemetery last weekend in Pike County.

Motion to adjourn at 12:07 by Neil Randall. 2nd Debra McGehee. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer's Report for May 8, 2021:

The bank statement had not been received at the time the newsletter was written on May 2, 2021. The report will be read at the May 8, 2021 meeting.

The Gordons of Amite County

(Taken from the book "The Gordons of the Deep South")

Tradition says that records show most Gordon families most likely immigrated to America in the latter part of the 17th century, and that Adam Gordon was the immigrant who first settled in Maryland. The family then moved to Fairfax and Spotsylvania Counties in Virginia. They may have been from the Kenmure branch of the Gordons of Scotland who owned the lands of Lochinvar since most of the Fairfax Gordon families claim that descent. Our earliest known ancestors were John and Ruth Gordon of Fairfax County and Prince William County, VA. John Gordon, born 1710, was a planter and known as a man of substance as evidenced by him being one of the securities on a bond for 500 pounds sterling which Thomas Awbrey, brother of Richard Awbrey, gave as Executor of Richard Awbrey's will, dated July 19, 1744. John had purchased 467 acres in Fairfax County in 1733. On May 15, 1749, John and Ruth sold 367 acres in Fairfax County to William Evans for 160 pounds and moved to South Carolina. At that time land in the upper country of South Carolina was being given to settlers under Royal land grants by headrights and John was one of the first of the colonists attracted to the offer. There were no roads so they traveled on horseback and followed Indian paths. The authors of the book made a diligent search of the records of Richmond, Fairfax County, Prince William County, Prince George County, and Stafford County from which Prince William County was formed. The Stafford County records were lost in the 1720's so John Gordon's history prior to 1733 may never be determined. There were no records of his wife Ruth prior to the deed in 1749 and no knowledge of her maiden name. The land they sold in Virginia is now in Loudoun County, VA.

John and Ruth Gordon and their six children (Thomas, John, Benjamin, William, Govin, and Ruth) settled in the Upper Country in South Carolina with a Royal Grant from King George II of England of 450 acres on Collins River (now Enoree River) in a section called the Fork, which was the land lying along the Broad River between the Tyger and Enoree Rivers. Their son George Gordon was born in South Carolina on May 2, 1752. John Gordon purchased 50 more acres in Berkeley County, SC, and 2,005 acres in Anson County, NC, which was disputed territory between NC and SC, ultimately being claimed by SC becoming the Newberry and Union Districts. He built multiple houses on this land and made other improvements, turning most into tenement plantations. He passed away unexpectedly in 1756, intestate. There is a Gordon-Chick graveyard in lower Union County, SC near their place so it is felt that he was most likely buried there even though the headstones are now gone. There are approximately 100 graves in the graveyard and the only headstones standing are on the graves of Eli Gordon, Sr. and his wife Rebecca. The old homeplace is now owned by the National Forestry Reserve. The accounts say that all of the settlers in this area were Baptists except the Maybins who were Presbyterian.

Thomas Gordon (exact DOB unknown but estimated to be 1735) married Elizabeth (maiden name unknown). The earliest recorded date of Thomas is 1754 when he purchased 1025 acres of land in Anson County, NC at the same time his father purchased his land. He would have been about 19 at the time. Since his father died intestate, according to the law of primogeniture, he fell heir to his father's 2505 acres. Thomas was not as interested in being a planter as his father and brothers were

as he was interested in other pursuits such as being a wheelwright and raising horses. Therefore, Thomas divided his father's land with his mother and brother as follows in April 1756: 1) sold to his brother John a messuage tenement plantation 600 acres for 70 pounds, 2) sold to his mother Ruth a messuage tenement plantation of 640 acres for 50 pounds, 3) sold to his brother William 460 acres for 50 pounds, 4) sold to his brother Benjamin a messuage tenement of 600 acres for 100 pounds, and 5) made a "deed of gift" to Govin and George of the home place. Thomas and his wife were most likely living with his mother and younger brothers on the home place at the time. Thomas and Elizabeth had 5 children: Ruth, Benjamin, Jesse, Eli, and Thomas, Jr. Trouble began with the Cherokee Indians in 1760 and it is thought that Thomas, John, and Benjamin fought in this war as Thomas was designated a Captain on a deed of sale in 1766. Thomas served in the Revolutionary War as a Major and was appointed as sheriff of Newberry County in 1786. Thomas died in 1808.

John Gordon (1736-1773) served in the Cherokee War and never married. Benjamin Gordon (1738-?) served in the Cherokee War and in the Revolutionary War. No further records of Benjamin have been found.

Ruth Gordon (1740-1810) married Col. Jacob Brown and moved to Washington County, TN (now Unicoe County). They had four children, Jacob, Benjamin, Thomas, and John Gordon.

William Gordon (1742-1782) married Elizabeth (maiden name unknown) and had four children, William, John, Posey, and Cassandra. He also served in the Revolutionary War.

Govin Gordon (1747-1815) married Sarah (maiden name unknown) had seven children (possibly more) named Govin, Andrew, Rebecca, Ruthy, Violet, Hannah, and James. He was a planter and served in the Revolutionary War as a Captain. They sold their land in SC in 1805 and moved to Jones County, GA. After Govin's death, Sarah moved to Greene County, AL to live near her two married daughters.

George Gordon (1752-1764) married Elizabeth (maiden name unknown) in 1779 during the Revolutionary War. He served in Col. Thomas Brandon's Regiment after the fall of Charleston. His services have been established by the DAR no. 295878. In 1790 he was still living in SC and prospering with his wife, mother, and six children John (1780-1807), Thomas (1782-1846), Mary (1785-?), Ann (1787-?) , Ruth (1788-1789), and William Stark (1789-1861). Their daughter Leah (1794-1812) was born in SC. In 1792 Kentucky became a state and was now open for settlement so George was lured there and in 1796 received two land grants in Christian County of 200 acres each. There they had Elizabeth (1797-1882), Milbrey (1801-1835?), and Lorren (1803-1813). Their daughter Mary married Arthur Davis in 1799 so they finally sold their land in SC in 1800 to his brother Govin. Their son John married Mary Miller in 1802 and their son Thomas Gordon married Ann Miller in 1804 (sisters). After ten years in KY, George was lured to the Louisiana Territory and on Oct. 29, 1805, sold their KY land to their sons John and Thomas. George and Elizabeth, along with the Millers, took the Natchez Trace to Natchez and then proceeded to the Greensburg Land District to claim their Spanish Land grant of 649.20 acres. In 1819 the US paid Spain for both East and West Florida, and his claim was confirmed by the act of March 3, 1819 without issue of a patent. This land became part of St. Helena Parish, bounded on the West by the Tickfaw River and on the north by

the MS territory. He spent his remaining years on this land and died intestate in 1832. The succession was recorded at the Greensburg Courthouse in 1835. George and Elizabeth are buried on this plantation now known as Circle H Ranch and their headstones have been removed.

John (1780-1807) and his wife Mary Miller had two children John Jr. and Sarah. John died in Kentucky and Mary moved to Amite County, MS with her children to live with her parents. Sarah married James E. Parker and had two children Leroy and Mary. John, Jr. married Mary Holden and had twelve children (William, Sarah, Mary, Thomas D. , John, Margaret, Charles, Emily, Kathleen, James, Eudora, and Eugenia. They moved to Copiah County after receiving a letter of dismissal from Jerusalem Baptist Church . One of John's descendants was Thomas Sams Bishop who served as a General during WWII in the 99th division during the Battle of the Bulge. He was promoted to Brigadier General in 1960 and eventually became the Adjutant General of Texas.

Thomas (1782-1846) married Ann Miller and had eight children: Parnece (Penny), Elizabeth, Arilla, Mariah, George J., William Stark, Thomas, and Mary Ann. They also moved to Amite County, MS. Penny married Benjamin Wall and had one child Elceba who married Barzilla Monroe Roberts. Mariah married Hampton Muse Lea and had five children Lethean, George, May, Mary, and Thomas. William Stark (1814-1889) married Jane Cotton and had four children Charles H., Asenath, Marion William, and Dewitt who are all buried in the Gordon Cemetery in Gillsburg that we cleaned recently. Marion married Nancy McKnight and had six children: Willie (buried in Morgan Gordon Cemetery), Azelie, Charlie T. (Marcia's grandfather), Howard, Hattie, Clyde, and an infant who died. Mary Ann married Wilson Tate and had two children.

Mary (1785-?) married Arthur Davis and remained in Kentucky. They had six children.

Ann (1787-?) married James Y. McNabb and moved from Kentucky with her father George. They settled in Marion County and were living in the part that became Pike County in 1815. He was Justice of the Peace.

William Stark (1789-1861) married Elizabeth Day, moved to St. Helena Parish and had no children. His property was divided into two lots. His widow drew lot #1 and his nephew William Stark Gordon drew lot #2. The land was sold, part purchased by Elizabeth and part by Martin Day. 1862 partition of notes and cash. Total divided into 8 roots, one root for each his brothers and sisters beforementioned in the will. Each root was \$2,864.44.

Rachel (1792-1809) married George Rayborn which was the first recorded marriage in Amite County on April 15, 1809. They had six children.

Leah (1794-1812) married Daniel Cryer and lived in Amite County. Elizabeth (1797-1882) married Renny Lee, had eleven children, and lived in St. Helena Parish. Milbry (1801-1835?) married Michael Prescott and had three children.

The entire genealogy of this family can be found in the book "The Gordons of the Deep South" which is free to view on www.familysearch.org. Marcia McLaurin has condensed this book into her family tree and can easily supply the tree without details if requested.

MEMBERS WILLING TO SHARE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	EMAIL	PHONE	FAMILY NAMES
Anderson	Thad Dudley	thad@seniorsbluebook.com	228-396-4602	Anderson, Swearingen, Gillis
Blalock	Gay	gayblalock@gmail.com	601-657-8807	Spillman, Shuckrow, Weathersby, Jackson
Boyd	Susan	Susan.boyd1@icloud.com	601-660-2550	DAR specialist
Bragg	George	george.bragg@gmail.com	601-201-3617	No Amite Co ties—will help do research!!!
Bragg	Susan	susanabragg@gmail.com	601-201-3617	Day, Cole, Causey, Huff, Currie, Whittington
Buchart	Carol	cbuchert11@aol.com	337-562-3983	McAllister, Steele, Graves, Garner, Whittington, Jackson, Lusk, Whiteside, Causey
Cate	David	davidjcate@comcast.net	832-266-9545	Kennedy, Gillespie, Cotton, Ellis, Erwin/Ervin, Marsh, Blocker, Patterson, Brasfield, Bassfield, Bechtel
Clark	Angela			Gallegly
Cook	Jacob	jacobcook82@gmail.com	803-443-3114	Shurley, Taylor, Jones, McMillan, Lundberg
Cratty	Chery	Chery3@me.com		Dunn, Phares
Crowell	Millijon Mila	billnmila@sbcglobal.net	512-788-7644	Harrington, Terrell, Godbold, Jones (professional genealogist)
Crump-Russell	Helen	hrussell9671@gmail.com	318-789-8396	Butler, Nunnery, Johns
Daniels	David A.	davidadaniels@comcast.net	615-517-5225	Daniels, Causey, Jackson, Buford, Nesmith
DeLee	Dewey		225-683-8324	DeLee, Caulfield, Caufeild, Johnson, Kirkland, Dixon, Shaw, Dunaway, Thornhill
Elliott	Robin	robinelliott@att.net	504-453-0831	McGehee
Fortenberry	Teresa	taf6768@aol.com	404-296-6768	Simmons, Goslin, Covington, Washburn
Freeman	J. Ralph	freeman333@bellsouth.net	601-730-2816	
Giddens	Heather	susanhgiddens@gmail.com	214-437-5018	Roberts, Grice, Garlington, Serman/Sirman, Coward/Coward, Smith
Griffith	Diane	ldgros@aol.com	630-248-0084	Pray, Wilson, Prescott
Jeffers	Joan T.	Joan.jeffers@gmail.com	775-846-4691	Bates
Jensen	Frode	skipjen@aol.com	435-200-9901	McLean, Bates, Weathersby
Johnson	Sonya	sonyacj@gmail.com	601-248-3347	Matthews, Kirkland, Belue, Nettles, Allred, Bowlin, Pettis, Chisolm
Johnson	Sylvia	sylviajohnson3@bellsouth.net	601-876-5602	Turnipseed, Wells, Williams, Walker, Brent, Bridges, Gunnell, Alexander, Boyd, Thompson, Conerly, Norman, Spencer
Khayat	Susannah	susannahkhayat@gmail.com	404-556-7040	Walker, Benthall, Jackson, Jenkins
Lane	Maurice	mauricelane@att.net	205-988-3521	Lane, Garner, Cook, Addison, Sleppy
Lea	Grady	ugh.lea1@gmail.com	850-944-0942	Lea
Lea	Keith	ckeithlea@gmail.com		Lea
Lofton	Kathryn	kathrynlofton@yahoo.com	904-403-7158	
Lovgren	Wendy	mx287308@SBCGlobal.net		Anderson, Causey, Daniels, Jackson, Jenkins, Perkins, Smylie
Magee	Evie	eviemagee@bellsouth.net	985-893-4567	Stewart, Lambert, Spillman, Young, Newman, Haley, Wall, Day, Dykes, Huff, Breed, Avery

LAST	FIRST	EMAIL	PHONE	FAMILY NAMES
McGehee	Debra	debby_higgins@yahoo.com	985-259-1322	McGehee, Dykes, Downs, Muse, DeJarnette, Varnado, Hutto, Strickland, Easterling, Higgins, Passman, Taylor, Thomas, O'Neil, Watson, McKenzie, Richardson, Talley, Warrne, Butler,
McGraw	Marie K.	marie410@att.net	601-924-5788	McGraw
McLaurin	Marcia	geemarcia@gmail.com	601-988-4077	Gordon, Butler, Newman, Burris, Barron, Causey
Parker	Marti	lipseylibrary@yahoo.com	601-320-4474	James M. Miller descendant
Parks	Tracy	tracycparks@comcast.net	901-409-7751	
Payne	Jennifer	jenpayne10@gmail.com	832-696-5973	Cain, Caston, Cunningham, Covington, Cockerham, Huff, Jones, Longmire, Moore, Payne
Price	Gregory	gaprice@comcast.net	601-856-0009	Price, Rollins, Bunch
Prospere	Katherine	prospere@cableone.net	601-597-0955	Middleton, Thornhill, Emfinger, Barksdale
Randall	Neil	Jrand57@msn.com	985-290-2325	Randall, roundtree, James, Lusk, Whiteside, Roberts, Coleman, Page, Tanner, Bowlin, Lindsey, Small, Cothorn, Pierce, Thigpen, Richardson, Prine, McKay, Ward, Harrell, Hopgood, Duncan, Conerly, Farmer, Dees, Jackson, Wilkinson
Roberts	Jean	jeanroberts@comcast.net	303-431-9191	Bankston, Hall, McElveen, Carter, Coates, Prescott, Jones, Conerly, Ward, Scott, Guy, Magee, Herring, Miller, Roberts, Wall, Varner/Vernon, Gordon, Hope, Smit, Simmons (Bogue Chitto), Tyler, Davis
House	Ary "Robbie"	robbiehouse47@gmail.com	662-654-1773	Barney, Robinson
Sargent	Patricia	trishsar1@yahoo.com	803-665-8332	McGehee, Brumfield, Cotton, Muse
Schultz	Kathryn	kathrynsschultz@yahoo.com	901-754-2419	Thompson, Hazlewood, Meredith, McNeil, Randall, Roundtree, White, Smith
Turner	Martha	martha.turner58@yahoo.com	540-645-2013	Butler, Gordon, Robinson, Turn, Quin, McElveen, Brumfield, Campbell
Victor	Patricia	Pkvictor.hou@gmail.com	281-384-2757	Richard Curtis, Phoebe Courtney, Talkbert, Johns, Lea, Perkins, Slade, Reeves/Rees
Walker	Carole	cawalker@scarletmail.rutgers.edu	404-963-1231	Walker, Jackson
Williams	Darlene	williamsdart21@yahoo.com	601-248-3215	Corban/Corbin, Whittington, Causey, Butler, Bradley, Smith, Farr, Jackson, Bass, Temple
Williams	Lynn	lwilliams226@gmail.com	601-730-3206	Williams, Vardell, Garner, Simmons, Ball
Wilson	Debra	kpmagindw@aol.com	970-234-2718	Littleton, Capell, Fielding, Baron, McCoy, Covert
Young	Rob	ryoung51@gmail.com	228-265-1294	Young, McGehee, Nunnery, Thornton, Wilkinson
Zeigler	Virginia H.	ginyaz@bellsouth.net	601-249-5467	Edwards, Turner, Zeigler, Bates, Rawlinson

If you are willing to share your contact information with other members, please let us know by emailing us at amitecohistory@gmail.com or text Marcia @ 601-988-4077 with your family names.

Annual Membership Contribution
Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society

PO Box 2

Liberty, MS 39645

amitecohistory@gmail.com

Check or circle choice

- \$15.00 – Individual \$25.00 – Family \$10.00 – Senior (over 65)
 \$200.00 – Lifetime \$150 -- Lifetime, couple 70+ age \$100 - Lifetime, 70+ individual
 \$10.00 – Student (under 18) \$50.00 – Sponsor or Ancestor Memorial

All contributions are tax-deductible.

Please make checks or money orders payable to: **Amite Co. Historical and Genealogical Society.**

Please send PayPal payments to: **amitecohistory@gmail.com**

(Please print)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Amite County Families to whom I am related: _____

YOU MAY SHARE MY CONTACT INFORMATION WITH OTHER MEMBERS for FAMILY RESEARCH PURPOSES:

YES NO

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Zip+4: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Thank you for joining the Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society. Your contribution helps us continue to collect and preserve historic treasures from Amite County's past, as well as to promote family history. Membership also provides an opportunity to attend programs and participate in special events.

I am interested in helping with:

Archives Membership Programs Newsletter Other (specify):

Prefer newsletter to be mailed () Prefer newsletter to be emailed ()

Please let us know if you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email instead of snail mail. This would allow us to save money on postage which would in turn allow money to be spent more prudently.

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